

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2225

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJ: WALDHEIM'S INSTRUCTIONS ON UNDOF COMMAND AND
OTHER MATTERS

REF: USUN 2125 (NOTAL)

1. HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM MIDDLE EAST, SECRETARIAT'S
JAMES JONAH GAVE US RUNDOWN JUNE 20 OF SYG'S ACTIONS AND
INTENTIONS CONCERNING COMMAND AND LOGISTICS RES-
PONSIBILITIES OF UNDOF, UNEF AND UNTSO.

2. WHILE IN CAIRO JUNE 8, WALDHEIM ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS
THAT UNEF CG SIILASVUO WAS TO HAVE OVERALL SUPERVISOR
RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNDOF (NOT "COMMAND", AS GENERAL KOHO HAD
TOLD US--REFTEL). DIRECT COMMAND WAS TO BE VESTED IN
GENERAL BRICENO, WHO WAS TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH BOTH
SIILASVUO AND UNTSO COS LILJESTRAND.

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3. JONAH SAID WALDHEIM HAD DECIDED ON SUPERVISORY ROLE FOR SIILASVUO ONLY AFTER IT HAD BECOME APPARENT AT GENEVA MILITARY WORKING GROUP MEETINGS THAT SYRIANS HAD NO OBJECTION TO UNDOF BEING UNDER UNEF UMBRELLA, BUT INDEED EXPECTED THAT TO BE CASE. PRESIDENT ASAD HAD ALSO INDICATED TO SYG THAT HE HAD NO DIFFICULTY WITH ARRANGEMENT. JONAH SPECULATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM MAY HAVE AT ONE TIME TAKEN HARD LINE ON THIS ISSUE AND THEN BEEN OVERRULED.

4. JONAH REMARKED THAT ONE REASON FOR SYG'S DECISION WAS THAT SIILASVUO/LILJESTRAND INTENSE RIVALRY FOR UNDOF SUPERVISION HAD BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE, AND NEEDED TO BE PUT TO REST. ANOTHER REASON WAS THAT SECRETARIAT BELIEVED BRICENO MIGHT NOT BUT UP TO UNDOF COMMAND AND COULD USE HELP. THERE IS THOUGHT OF ASKING PERU TO REPLACE BRICENO WITH FORMER PERUVIAN CONTINGENT COMMANDER IBANEZ. SECRETARIAT IS ALSO THINKING OF ASSIGNING POLAD TO UNDOF. (JOHN PACE, MALTESE NATIONAL IN HUMAN RIGHTS DIV. IS LEADING CANDIDATE).

5. IN SAME INSTRUCTION FROM CAIRO, WALDHEIM DEALT WITH DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNDOF LOGISTIC SUPPORT. DECISION WAS TO GIVE UNTSO CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY FOR AREA EAST OF SUEZ CANAL AND UNEF CAO RESPONSIBILITY WEST OF CANAL--INCLUDING VIRTUALLY ALL PROCUREMENT. ACCORDING TO JONAH, SYG'S DECISION ON LOGISTIC RESPONSIBILITY WAS IN A SENSE PREDETERMINED BY WALDHEIM'S DESIRE THAT UNDOF SHOULD BE FUNDED FROM UNEF BUDGET RATHER THAN SEPARATELY. JONAH SAID HE AND OTHERS WERE ARGUING THAT THIS METHOD OF FUNDING WAS UNSOUND FINANCIALLY AND POLITICALLY, BUT SYG DISAGREED, HAVING BEEN UNNERVED BY USSR PERM REP MALIK'S INSISTENCE TO SECURITY COUNCIL THAT UNDOF NOT ADD TO TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED FOR UNEF.

6. ON SUBJECT OF UNEF REIMBURSEMENT FORMULA, JONAH CONFIRMED WHAT WE HAVE BEEN HEARING THIS WEEK FROM TROOP CONTRIBUTORS; THAT \$225 TO \$650 SCALE INFORMALLY PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT (USUN 2047) IS BEING STRONGLY OPPOSED BY GOVERNMENTS PROVIDING HIGH COST CONTINGENTS. THEY WANT FLAT MONTHLY RATE OF \$500 PER SOLDIER REGARDLESS OF RANK. LOW COST CONTINGENT GOVERNMENTS (LED BY PERU) ARE HAPPY TO GO ALONG WITH THIS FORMULA, SO LONG AS IT APPLIES EQUALLY TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS. WE SAID EVERYONE'S CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST WAS EVIDENTALLY BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT EXCEPT THAT OF MAJOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS. WE ADDED THAT TIME HAD PERHAPS COME FOR USG TO MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN ONCE AGAIN AT HIGH LEVEL.

(NOTE: MISSION IS PREPARING RECOMMENDATIONS TO DEPT ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH WE WILL BE SENDING SHORTLY.)

7. COMMENT: MANY OF SYG'S PLANS FOR UNDOF ARE STILL IN

FORMATIVE STAGE. (EVEN COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS REMAIN SOMEWHAT FLEXIBLE SINCE, AS OF NOW, SYG DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE THEM PUBLIC IN LETTER TO SC.) IF DEPT WISHES TO INFLUENCE SYG ON ABOVE (OTHER THAN REIMBURSEMENT QUESTION), IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF INSTRUCTIONS COULD BE SENT TO COINCIDE WITH HIS RETURN JUNE 22.

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